[24th August 1955

(b) if so, whether general rule 22 regarding reservation of appointments was observed when selecting the candidates?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (a) Four.

" (b) Yes."

Outbreak of fire in Kothampakkam village.

* 2258 *Q.*—SRI M. P. SUBRAMANIAM (on behalf of Sri A. Govindaswamy Nayagar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was any outbreak of fire in Kothampakkam village cheri, Villupuram taluk, on 26th February 1955;

(b) if so, the number of houses burnt;

(c) whether the Fire Service Officers helped to put down the fire; and

(d) whether any compensation was paid?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) Twenty-eight huts were burnt.

" (c) Yes, Sir.

" (d) A free cash grant of Rs. 500 at Rs. 20 each was paid to 25 families who were poor and eligible for help from the Government.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER.

MESSAGES FROM THE COUNCIL.

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" I have to announce to the House the following messages, dated the 22nd August 1955, received from the Hon. the Chairman, Madras Legislative Council :—

(1) ' In accordance with rule 130 of the Madras Council Rules, I return the Madras General Sales Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 1955 (L.A. Bill No. 16 of 1955), as passed by the Council on the 22nd August 1955 without any recommendation and signed by me.'

(2) ' In accordance with rule 130 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Hill Stations (Preservation of Trees) Bill, 1955 (L.A. Bill No. 17 of 1955) as passed and agreed to by the Council on the 22nd August 1955 without any amendment and signed by me.'

" I have also to announce to the House the following messages dated the 23rd August 1955, received from the Hon. the Chairman, Madras Legislative Council :—

(1) ' In accordance with rule 130 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Police (Madras Amendment) Bill,